

that has never waned. He had a special affection for students. He teased them, entertained them, inspired them and guided them. They responded with equal affection.

It has been invigorating for those of us still in our age of impetuous vanities to associate with such a wise colleague. I cannot imagine anyone more effective at helping the people of this state appreciate the important role played by Wofford and the other private liberal arts colleges. Joe Lesesne is one of those refreshing people who prefers to grin rather than scowl, banter rather than pontificate. What a wonderful mentor he has been to me and many others.

In his compassionate awareness of others, in his instinctive respect for them, in his declared willingness to help, in his courtesy, tolerance and gentleness, Joe Lesesne demonstrated that the highest intelligence is at its most fertile and expressive when allied to the deepest humanity. As to all of these traits, he has provided us the great gift of his example. Blessed are those who perform good works and earn our respect and admiration. Thanks, Joe.●

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate and welcome to our Nation's Capitol the two middle schools and two high schools from Maryland that have been named Blue Ribbon School Award winners by the United States Department of Education. These schools are among only 198 middle and high schools nationwide to be honored with this award, the most prestigious national school recognition for public and private schools.

The designation as a Blue Ribbon School is a ringing endorsement of the successful techniques which enable the students of these schools to succeed and achieve. Over the past few years, I have made a commitment to visit the Blue Ribbon Schools and have always been delighted to see first hand the interaction between parents, teachers, and the community, which strongly contributed to the success of the school. I look forward to visiting each of these four schools and congratulating the students, teachers and staff personally for this exceptional accomplishment.

According to the Department of Education, Blue Ribbon Schools have been judged to be particularly effective in meeting local, state and national goals. These schools also display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools which have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to family involvement; evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards; and a commitment to share the best practices with other schools.

After a screening process by each State Department of Education, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education, the Blue Ribbon School nominations were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education. A panel of outstanding educators from around the country then reviewed the nominations, selected schools for site visits, and made recommendations to Secretary of Education Richard Riley.

The four winning Maryland secondary schools are as follows:

Baltimore City College High School: founded in 1839 is the third oldest public high school in the country. A college preparatory magnet high school emphasizing the liberal arts and serving students and parents in Baltimore, City College sends 95 percent of its graduates to post-secondary institutions and, in doing so, has played a part in the American dream—preparing students to succeed in college as well as giving them day-to-day experience in working with people of all backgrounds to lead in the community.

Bel Air Middle School: located in Harford County, is a high-performing model of teaching and learning because of its outstanding academic programs and the high level of commitment from teachers, students, local businesses, and parents. Bel Air Middle School has developed an integrated assessment program entitled, "Student Achievement and Improvement through Lifelong Learning", SAIL, which has been recognized nationally by the National Council of Teachers of English. Additionally, Bel Air Middle School has a literacy Team, which provides the faculty with ongoing professional development, particularly in the areas of reading and writing.

Paint Branch High School: in Burtonsville, Montgomery County, offers a dynamic and innovative whole-school signature program in science and the media. In addition to delivering a rigorous, comprehensive high school program with a full complement of honors and advanced placement classes and additional support related, community service, and extra-curricular experiences emphasizing research and experimentation. Several business partnerships support the largest internship program in the county, with nearly 170 students this year earning credit at such sites as the National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Discovery Communication, Inc., and Black Entertainment Television.

Plum Point Middle School: in Huntingtown, Calvert County, exhibits enthusiasm and strength which grows from school-wide philosophy that considers each member valuable and every minute important. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of educational and extracurricular activi-

ties. Over 75 percent of its students are involved in after-school activities. The school has been county athletic champion 13 times in various sports. Over 20 percent of the teaching staff have been award winners—including Maryland's 1999 Teacher of the Year, Rachael Younkens.●

RECOGNITION OF CLAIRE HOWARD

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Claire Howard of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania who will serve as President of the USA Council of Serra International next year. This is a most noteworthy accomplishment, as she is the first woman ever to serve in this high capacity. I would like to insert the following article into the RECORD, which was printed in the Allentown Diocese Times on August 3, 2000:

Claire Howard of Bethlehem was installed as President-Elect by United States Serra clubs at the annual Serra International Convention in Kansas City. She will serve a one-year term as President-Elect on the USA/Canada Council Board. In 2001, she will become the first woman President of not only the USA Council, but also the first in Serra International's 65-year history.

As President-Elect of the USA Council (USAC) of Serra International, a worldwide organization that works to foster and promote Catholic religious vocations, she will work closely with the national staff and local Serra clubs, and assist the president as needed. She also serves as a liaison with the council's 13 standing committees.

"I'm looking forward to making sure we all really commit ourselves to the ministry of building up the body of Christ through our Serran work," Howard said.

A charter member of the Serra Club of Bethlehem, Howard has served two years as club President. An active member over the years, she has served on almost all the standing committees.

Her future seat as president is not Howard's only "first" in Serra International; she has trail-blazed the way for women in Serra for years, ascending steadily through the ranks of the organizational structure. In 1993, she was the first woman to serve as District Governor of Serra International and in 1994 became the first regional representative (again the first woman) of Region 3 of the then newly formed USA/Canada Council of Serra International.

She has chaired USACC's Meetings and Conventions Committee, which is responsible for coordination of the fall regional conventions in the 13 regions of the United States and Canada. In recent years she has served as USA Council Vice President for the Membership and Programs committees.

For the past six years, she has been the Coordinator of the Serra Clubs of the Allentown Diocese's "Life/Vocation Awareness Weekend," working closely with diocesan Director of Vocations the Rev. Francis A. Nave. The weekend offers any adult who would like to explore the possibilities of entering the priesthood or a religious order a time of reflection, prayer and interaction with priests and religious [leaders].

Howard was also appointed by the Most Rev. Edward P. Cullen, D.D., Bishop of Allentown, to be the Serran representative for the Allentown Diocese Vocation Recruitment Committee.